

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for trading a right to use electric communications equipment comprising:

means which accepts a consignment to sell a right to use electric communications equipment corresponding to a surplus electric communications equipment capacity a first registered user has contracted with a communication company;

means which accepts a consignment to buy a right to use electric communications equipment corresponding to a shortage of electric communications equipment capacity a second registered user has contracted with a communication company; and

market brokerage means which mediates between said consignment to sell said right to use electric communications equipment of said first registered user and said consignment to buy said right to use electric communications equipment of said second registered user to conclude the transfer of said right to use electric communications equipment.

2. The apparatus for trading a right to use electric communications equipment according to claim 1, further comprising electric-communications-equipment-use-right price index means which collects the price of said consignments to sell and the price of said consignments to buy said right to use electric communications equipment from said registered users, and which sets a lower unit price for said right to use electric communications equipment in a period in which the price of said consignments to sell said right to use electric communications equipment exceed the price of said consignments to buy, and which sets a higher unit price for said right to use electric communications equipment in a period in which the price of said consignments to sell said right to use

electric communications equipment is below the price of said consignments to buy.

3. The apparatus for trading a right to use electric communications equipment according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said right to use electric communications equipment includes at least one of a line use right, a right to use application equipment and a right to use an ASP server, and said electric communications equipment capacity includes at least one of a line capacity, an application equipment processing capacity and an ASP server processing capacity.

4. An apparatus for assigning a capacity of electric communications equipment, comprising:

means which collects and analyzes traffic data of registered users and computes the usage rate of an electric-communications-equipment over a period equivalent to a time unit for transactions of the right to use the electric communications equipment;

monitoring means which monitors the trading of said right to use electric communications equipment to be traded in a market for trading said right to use electric communications equipment; and

means which provides other electric communications equipment having a surplus capacity as bypass electric communications equipment to bypass electric communications equipment having insufficient capacity, for electric communications equipment for which said monitoring means determines that the transaction price for said right to use electric communications equipment becomes high due to a shortage in electric communications equipment capacity provided by a communication company.

5. An apparatus for assigning a capacity of electric communications equipment,

comprising:

means which collects and analyzes traffic data of registered users and computes the usage rate of an electric-communications-equipment over a period equivalent to a time unit for transactions of the right to use the electric communications equipment;

monitoring means which monitors the trading of said right to use electric communications equipment to be traded in a market for trading said right to use electric communications equipment; and

a unit for providing electric communications equipment for each contractor which, for electric communications equipment for which said monitoring means determines that a transaction price for said right to use electric communications equipment becomes high due to a shortage in electric communications equipment capacity provided by a communication company, preferentially provides a customer having a contract for high communication quality use of electric communications equipment with electric communications equipment capacity, and subsequently provides a customer having a contract for low communication quality use of electric communications equipment with said electric communications equipment capacity.

6. The apparatus for assigning a capacity of electric communications equipment according to claim 5, comprising means which makes a decision in such a way that a ratio of (a) an electric communications equipment capacity secured by said unit for providing electric communications equipment for each contractor, for a customer having a contract for high communication quality use of said electric communications equipment to (b) an electric communications equipment capacity secured by said unit for providing electric communications equipment for each contractor, for a customer having a contract for low communication quality use of said electric communications equipment, does not

excessively deviate from the difference in contracted unit price between the high communication quality use and the low communication quality use.

7. A method of trading a right to use electric communications equipment, comprising:

a step of accepting a consignment to sell a right to use electric communications equipment corresponding to a surplus electric communications equipment capacity a first registered user has contracted with a communication company;

a step of accepting a consignment to buy a right to use electric communications equipment corresponding to a shortage of electric communications equipment capacity a second registered user has contracted with a communication company; and

a market brokerage step of intermediating between said consignment to sell said right to use electric communications equipment of said first registered user and said consignment to buy said right to use electric communications equipment of said second registered user to conclude the transfer of said right to use electric communications equipment.

8. A method of assigning a capacity of electric communications equipment, comprising:

a step of collecting and analyzing traffic data of registered users and computing the usage rate of an electric-communications-equipment over a period equivalent to a time unit for transactions of said right to use the electric communications equipment;

a monitoring step of monitoring the trading of said right to use the electric communications equipment in a market for trading said right to use electric communications equipment; and

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a step of providing other electric communications equipment having a surplus capacity as bypass electric communications equipment to bypass electric communications equipment having insufficient capacity, for which said monitoring step determines that the transaction price for said right to use electric communications equipment becomes high due to a shortage of electric communications equipment capacity provided by a communication company.

9. A method of assigning a capacity of electric communications equipment, comprising:

a step of collecting and analyzing traffic data of registered users and computing the usage rate of an electric-communications-equipment over a period equivalent to a time unit for transactions of said right to use the electric communications equipment;

a monitoring step of monitoring the trading of said right to use electric communications equipment to be traded in a market for trading said right to use electric communications equipment; and

a step of providing electric communications equipment for each contractor which, for electric communications equipment for which said monitoring step detects that a transaction price for said right to use electric communications equipment becomes high due to a shortage of electric communications equipment capacity provided by a communication company, a customer having a contract for high communication quality use of electric communications equipment is preferentially provided with electric communications equipment capacity, and subsequently a customer having a contract for low communication quality use of electric communications equipment is provided with said electric communications equipment capacity.